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ITALY.

Denti di Chiaie (Chiaie teeth).

NAPLES, ITALY, October 7, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report: On the examination of certain Italian emigrants embarking at this port, one is struck with the frequency of a dental peculiarity common among the inhabitants of the Italian littoral and known as "denti di Chiaie," or Chiaie teeth. This defect was first described by Prof. Stefano Chiaie, a celebrated Neapolitan, and bears his name.

The impairment of the teeth, often not amounting to more than a mere imperfection, is of particular interest, owing to the fact that Italians who are subjects of the defect frequently present themselves before the medical practitioner in the United States. The deterioration, however, is an acquired one, due to local geological conditions and so, because of altered hygienic surroundings, will not pass beyond the present generation of Italians in America. Strong well-formed teeth not particularly prone to decay appear to be the rule among young Italians when they have not been subjected to the influence during infancy of the causes of Chiaie's disease. The etiology seems to be connected with volcanic fumes or the emanations of subterranean fires, either fouling the atmosphere or forming a solution in drinking water. In Naples it is more often attributable to water than to the air, and since the Serino water, brought in conduits from a distant mountain height, has been in use and local wells condemned the incidence of the disease among infants has greatly diminished. Formerly nearly all children living in the section known as Santa Lucia, along the Riviera, and at Posillipo were affected.

The people of Pozzuoli, a town of 16,000 inhabitants, situated 5 miles from Naples, are marked off from the people of neighboring places by their distinguishing characteristic of black teeth (*denti neri*), apparently strong and serviceable, but devoid of enamel and hideously dark. The environs of Pozzuoli are everywhere volcanic. Close at hand is the Solfatara, a half-extinct crater full of cracks from which gases are constantly issuing. Some of the inhabitants of Pozzuoli drink the water of springs, a water necessarily charged under pressure with volcanic fumes; all of them are constantly living in an atmosphere filled with noisome gases.

The theory most generally received in Italy is that these gases have a selectively hurtful effect on enamel formation in early childhood, but that the growth of the other dental tissues is not interfered with. When the cause is active during the entire period of second dentation, the whole tooth is bereft of enamel and becomes perfectly black. If the growing teeth are exposed for but a short time at the commencement of their formation, only the cutting edges of the upper incisors may be affected and the appearance, when the teeth are matured, is as if they had been browned by tobacco smoke in the same way that a meerschaum pipe is colored by smoking. Sometimes the teeth have the repulsive look of fever patients' teeth when smeared with sordes, except where covered by the half-parted lips.

Among the better class of Italians living inland, it is the custom to go to the seashore in summer. Naples has always been a popular resort, and as a result of the temporary exposure of children brought with their parents to Naples at the time when Serino water was not used, it is frequent to see among well-to-do people an otherwise handsome face marred by a line of fine, black markings crossing the incisor

teeth in a horizontal direction. This fault of development is known among Neapolitans as "denti scritti" or writing on the teeth. The marking, when present on finely formed, white teeth, resembles the diminutive lettering which is sometimes done on seashells for purposes of ornamentation.

The different forms of deterioration which are grouped under the name of "denti di Chiaie" are thus seen to be quite unlike any other dental disease and not at all likely to be confounded with Hutchinson's teeth, mercurial teeth, carries, or other maladies of the teeth.

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Naples—Steamship Aller from Naples to New York.

NAPLES, ITALY, October 11, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the steamship *Aller*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, left this port on October 10, 1901, with 634 emigrants for New York. The captain was given a sealed letter, addressed to the quarantine officer, port of New York, as follows:

"In regard to the steamship *Aller*, leaving this port to-day for New York, I have to inform you that while at Naples the vessel lay off from the wharf, that communication with the shore was under my supervision, that the cargo was submitted to careful scrutiny, and that all the crew and steerage passengers were submitted to a medical examination. The temperature of the steerage passengers was taken and all persons having a temperature above normal were detained.

"The regulations of the U. S. Marine-Hospital Service, qualified by official amendments and additions and by telegraphic instructions received September 28, 1901, from the Supervising Surgeon-General U. S. Marine Hospital Service, were strictly complied with.

"Vaccination was omitted, in compliance with paragraph 16, Article V, Addition to Regulations, to be observed at foreign ports and at sea, Treasury Department Circular No. 6, dated January 16, 1900.

"The number of cases and deaths from quarantinable diseases is given in the accompanying bill of health."

Respectfully,

J. M. EAGER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Naples—Condition of plague and smallpox.

NAPLES, ITALY, October 14, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended October 12, 1901, the following ship was inspected at Naples:

October 10, the steamship *Aller*, of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, bound with passengers and cargo for New York. There were inspected and passed 634 steerage passengers. Eight hundred and seventy-seven pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam.

Inspections at Palermo.

At Palermo, for the week ended October 12, 1901, the following ships were inspected:

October 7, the steamship *Trojan Prince*, of the Prince Line, bound